

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer implemented method for providing information to an automatic machine translation system to improve translation accuracy, the method comprising:

receiving a collection of source text;

receiving from the automatic machine translation system an attempted translation that corresponds to the collection of source text;

processing the attempted translation and the collection of source text to identify an error in the attempted translation; and

providing information to the automatic machine translation system to reduce the likelihood that the error will be repeated in subsequent translations generated by the automatic machine translation system.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

correcting the error; and

providing a corrected translation.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving from the automatic machine translation system comprises receiving from a client upon which the automatic machine translation system is implemented.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein receiving from a client comprises receiving by way of a computer network.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein receiving by way of a computer network comprises receiving by way of the Internet.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving from the automatic machine translation system comprises receiving from a server upon which the automatic machine translation system is implemented.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said receiving from a server comprises receiving by way of a computer network.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein providing information comprises providing information to be assimilated into the automatic machine translation system.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein providing information to be assimilated comprises providing update information to be assimilated into a knowledge source associated with the automatic machine translation system.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein providing information to be assimilated comprises providing

update information to be assimilated into translation correspondence associated with the automatic machine translation system.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein providing information to be assimilated comprises providing update information to be assimilated into a collection of linguistic structures associated with the automatic translation system.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein providing information to be assimilated comprises providing update information to be assimilated into a database of corresponding logical forms associated with the automatic machine translation system.

13. The method of claim 8, wherein providing information to be assimilated comprises providing update information to be assimilated into a collection of statistical parameters associated with the automatic machine translation system.

14. The method of claim 8, wherein providing information to be assimilated comprises providing update information to be assimilated into a collection of parsing information associated with the automatic machine translation system, the parsing information being information that enables a parser to provide analysis of a collection of segments.

15. The method of claim 8, wherein providing information to be assimilated comprises providing update information to be assimilated into a collection of corresponding word associations associated with the automatic machine translation system.

16. The method of claim 8, wherein providing information to be assimilated comprises providing bilingual corpora.

17. A computer-implemented method for improving the performance of an automatic machine translation system, the method comprising:

employing the automatic machine translation system to generate a translation of a collection of source text;

transferring the collection of source text and at least a portion of the translation to a reliable modification source;

receiving from the reliable modification source an indication of an error in at least one portion of the translation; and

training the automatic machine translation system such that the error will be less likely to occur for subsequent translations generated by the automatic translation system.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising:

generating a confidence metric representing a quality measurement with regard to the translation; and
selecting the a portion of the translation transferred to the reliable modification source based at least in part upon the confidence metric.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein said transferring comprises transferring from a client computing device, upon which the automatic machine translation system is implemented, to a server computing device associated with the reliable modification source.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein said transferring comprises transferring from a server, upon which the automatic machine translation system is implemented, to a server computing device associated with the reliable modification source.

21. The method of claim 17, wherein training the automatic machine translation system comprises updating a knowledge source associated with the automatic machine translation system.

22. The method of claim 17, wherein training the automatic machine translation system comprises updating at least one translation correspondence

associated with the automatic machine translation system.

23. The method of claim 17, wherein training the automatic machine translation system comprises updating a collection of linguistic structures associated with the automatic machine translation system.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein training the automatic machine translation system comprises updating a database of corresponding logical forms associated with the automatic machine translation system.

25. The method of claim 17, wherein training the automatic machine translation system comprises updating a collection of statistical parameters associated with the automatic machine translation system.

26. The method of claim 17, wherein training the automatic machine translation system comprises updating a collection of parsing information associated with the automatic machine translation system, the parsing information being information that enables a parser to provide analysis of a collection of segments.

27. The method of claim 17, wherein training the automatic machine translation system comprises updating a collection of corresponding word associations associated with the automatic machine translation system.

28. The method of claim 17, wherein training the automatic machine translation system comprises providing bilingual corpora based on the error to the automatic machine translation system and enabling it to train itself based on the bilingual corpora.

29. A method for improving the performance of an automatic machine translation system, the method comprising:

- employing the automatic machine translation system to generate a translation of a collection of source text, a confidence metric being associated with portions of the translation;

- evaluating the confidence metric and selecting a low confidence portion of the translation;

- transmitting the low confidence portion across a computer network to a reliable modification source;

- utilizing the reliable modification source to generate a corrected version of the low confidence portion;

generating an updated database of translation knowledge based on the corrected version of the low confidence portion;
transmitting the updated database of translation knowledge across a computer network to the automatic machine translation system; and
incorporating the updated database of translation knowledge into the automatic machine translation system to enable the automatic machine translation system to subsequently translate with greater accuracy text similar to the low confidence portion.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein utilizing the reliable modification source to generate a corrected version comprises utilizing a human translator.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein transmitting across a computer network comprising transmitting across the Internet.

32. The method of claim 29, wherein the automatic machine translation system is implemented on a client computing device.

33. The method of claim 29, wherein incorporating the database of translation knowledge comprises incorporating at least one translation correspondence.

34. The method of claim 29, wherein incorporating the database of translation knowledge comprises incorporating at least one updated linguistic structure.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein incorporating the database of translation knowledge comprises incorporating at least one update into a database of corresponding logical forms.

36. The method of claim 29, wherein incorporating the database of translation knowledge comprises incorporating at least one update into a collection of statistical parameters.

37. The method of claim 29, wherein incorporating the database of translation knowledge comprises incorporating at least one update into a collection of parsing information that enables a parser to provide analysis of a collection of segments.

38. The method of claim 29, wherein incorporating the database of translation knowledge comprises incorporating at least one update into a collection of corresponding word associations.

39. A method for improving the performance of a first self-customizing automatic machine translator, the method comprising:

implementing the first self-customizing automatic translator on a first computing device;

implementing a second self-customizing automatic translator on a second computing device;

providing a reliable translation source;

enabling communication between the first and second computing devices;

receiving at the second computing device a source text;

supplying the second computing device with a corrected version of the attempted translation produced by the reliable translation source;

utilizing the second self-customizing automatic translator to process the source text and the corrected version of the attempted translation to produce training information for adapting the first self-customizing automatic translator to subsequently translate text similar to the source text with greater accuracy;

transferring the training information from the second computing device to the first computing device; and

assimilating the training information into the first self-customizing automatic translator to enable the first self-customizing automatic translator to subsequently

-48-

translate with greater accuracy text
similar to the source text.